



# The Naming of Hurricanes



1973

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE / National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / National Weather Service

## **PRESENT PROCEDURE IN THE ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN, AND GULF OF MEXICO**

Girls' names have been used by the National Weather Service to identify tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico since 1953. In 1960, a semi-permanent list of four sets of names in alphabetical order was introduced, and in 1971 the list was expanded to ten sets of names. A separate set of names is used each year, beginning with the first name in each set. The letters Q, U, X, Y, and Z are not included because of the scarcity of names beginning with those letters. After ten years, when the ten sets have been used, the sets will be used over again in the same manner.

## **WHY HURRICANES ARE NAMED**

Experience shows that the use of girls' names, in written as well as in spoken communications, is shorter, quicker, and less subject to error than the older more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods. These advantages are especially important in exchanging detailed storm information between hundreds of widely scattered stations, airports, coastal bases, and ships at sea.

The use of easily remembered names greatly reduces confusion when two or more tropical storms occur at the same time. For example, one hurricane can be moving slowly westward in the Gulf of Mexico, while at exactly the same time another hurricane can be moving rapidly northward along the Atlantic Coast. In the past, confusion and false rumors have arisen when storm advisories broadcast from one radio station were mistaken for warnings concerning an entirely different storm located hundreds of miles away.

## **THE TEN YEAR LIST OF STORM NAMES**

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Arlene	Agnes	Alice	Alma	Amy	Anna	Anita	Amelia	Angie	Abby
Beth	Betty	Brenda	Becky	Blanche	Belle	Babe	Bess	Barbara	Bertha
Chloe	Carrie	Christine	Carmen	Caroline	Candice	Clara	Cora	Cindy	Candy
Doria	Dawn	Delia	Dolly	Doris	Dottie	Dorothy	Debra	Dot	Dinah
Edith	Edna	Ellen	Elaine	Eloise	Emmy	Evelyn	Ella	Eve	Elsie
Fern	Felice	Fran	Fifi	Faye	Frances	Frieda	Flossie	Franny	Felicia
Ginger	Gerda	Gilda	Gertrude	Gladys	Gloria	Grace	Greta	Gwyn	Georgia
Heidi	Harriet	Helen	Hester	Hallie	Holly	Hannah	Hope	Hedda	Hedy
Irene	Ilene	Imogene	Ivy	Ingrid	Inga	Ida	Irma	Iris	Isabel
Janice	Jane	Joy	Justine	Julia	Jill	Jodie	Juliet	Judy	June
Kristy	Kara	Kate	Kathy	Kitty	Kay	Kristina	Kendra	Karen	Kim
Laura	Lucile	Loretta	Linda	Lilly	Lilias	Lois	Louise	Lana	Lucy
Margo	Mae	Madge	Marsha	Mabel	Maria	Mary	Martha	Molly	Millie
Nona	Nadine	Nancy	Nelly	Niki	Nola	Nora	Noreen	Nita	Nina
Orchid	Odette	Ona	Olga	Opal	Orpha	Odel	Ora	Ophelia	Olive
Portia	Polly	Patsy	Pearl	Peggy	Pamela	Penny	Paula	Patty	Phyllis
Rachel	Rita	Rose	Roxanne	Ruby	Ruth	Raquel	Rosalie	Roberta	Rosie
Sandra	Sarah	Sally	Sabrina	Sheila	Shirley	Sophia	Susan	Sherry	Suzy
Terese	Tina	Tam	Thelma	Tilda	Trixie	Trudy	Tanya	Tess	Theda
Verna	Velma	Vera	Viola	Vicky	Vilda	Virginia	Vanessa	Vesta	Violet
Wallis	Wendy	Wilda	Wilma	Winnie	Wynne	Willene	Wanda	Wenda	Willette

**IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE NAMES OF PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS  
HAVE NOT BEEN CHOSEN FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF HURRICANE NAMES.**



## **HISTORY OF HURRICANE NAMES**

For several hundred years many hurricanes in the West Indies were named after the particular saint's day on which the hurricane occurred. Mr. I. R. Tannehill describes in his book "Hurricanes" the major tropical storms of recorded history, and mentions many hurricanes named after saints. For example, there was "Hurricane Santa Ana" which struck Puerto Rico with exceptional violence on July 26, 1825, and "San Felipe" (the first) and "San Felipe" (the second) which hit Puerto Rico on September 13 in both 1876 and 1928.

The first written mention of the use of a girl's name for a storm, as by a forecaster when studying weather charts, may have been in the novel "Storm" written by George R. Stewart, published by Random House in 1941, and since filmed by Walt Disney. During World War II this practice became widespread in weather map discussions among forecasters, especially Air Force and Navy meteorologists who plotted the movements of storms over the wide expanse of the Pacific Ocean.

### **PACIFIC NAMES**

Girls' names are also used to identify typhoons and hurricanes in the Pacific. One set of 4 alphabetical lists is used for hurricanes and typhoons in the Central and Western North Pacific and another set of 4 alphabetical lists in the Eastern North Pacific. In the Central and Western North Pacific, however, un-

like the Eastern North Pacific, each entire list is used; the first name used each year is the name following that used in the preceding year. Names are occasionally changed on the basis of experience with their use. The lists follow:

#### **EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC:**

1971—Agatha, Bridget, Carlotta, Denise, Eleanor, Francene, Georgette, Hilary, Ilsa, Jewel, Katrina, Lily, Monica, Nanette, Olivia, Priscilla, Ramona, Sharon, Terry, Veronica, Winifred

1972—Annette, Bonny, Celeste, Diana, Estelle, Fernanda, Gwen, Hyacinth, Iva, Joanne, Kathleen, Liza, Madeline, Naomi, Orla, Pauline, Rebecca, Simone, Tara, Valerie, Willa

1973—Ava, Bernice, Claudia, Doreen, Emily, Florence, Glenda, Heather, Irah, Jennifer, Katherine, Lillian, Mona, Natalie, Odessa, Prudence, Roslyn, Sylvia, Tillie, Victoria, Wallie

1974—Aletta, Blanca, Connie, Dolores, Eileen, Francesca, Gretchen, Helga, Ione, Joyce, Kirsten, Lorraine, Maggie, Norma, Orlene, Patricia, Rosalie, Selma, Toni, Vivian, Winona

#### **CENTRAL AND WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC:**

Agnes, Bess, Carmen, Della, Elaine, Faye, Gloria, Hester, Irma, Judy, Kit, Lola, Mamie, Nina, Ora, Phyllis, Rita, Susan, Tess, Viola, Winnie.

Alice, Betty, Cora, Doris, Elsie, Flossie, Grace, Helen, Ida, June, Kathy, Lorna, Marie, Nancy, Olga, Pamela, Ruby, Sally, Therese, Violet, Wilda.

Anita, Billie, Clara, Dot, Ellen, Fran, Georgia, Hope, Iris, Joan, Kate, Louise, Marge, Nora, Opal, Patsy, Ruth, Sarah, Thelma, Vera, Wanda.

Amy, Babe, Carla, Dinah, Emma, Freda, Gilda, Harriet, Ivy, Jean, Kim, Lucy, Mary, Nadine, Olive, Polly, Rose, Shirley, Trix, Virginia, Wendy.